

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

PLAYER OF THE YEAR **BRITTANY JACKSON**

All-Area  
First Team



Stephanie  
Ball



LaSonja  
Edwards



Kendall  
Hedgecock



Rose Marie  
Julien



Brandy  
Montgomery



K.P.  
Pound



Taryn  
Richard



Ashley  
Robinson

**STEPHANIE BALL**  
**Lincoln Park**  
**senior, guard**  
**Stats:** 18.7 points per game,  
4.4 assists per game,  
4.6 steals per game

**LaSONJA EDWARDS**  
**Fort Pierce Central**  
**sophomore,**  
**guard/forward**  
**Stats:** 18.4 points per game  
15.3 rebounds per game

**KENDALL HEDGECKOCK**  
**Vero Beach**  
**senior, wing**  
**Stats:** 18.7 points per game,  
2.0 steals per game

**ROSE MARIE JULIEN**  
**Treasure Coast**  
**sophomore, post**  
**Stats:** 21.6 points per game,  
11.6 rebounds per game

**BRANDY MONTGOMERY**  
**Lincoln Park Academy**  
**junior, guard**  
**Stats:** 24 points per game,  
6.8 rebounds per game,  
3.5 assists per game,  
3.8 steals per game

**K.P. POUND**  
**Sebastian River**  
**junior, forward/center**  
**Stats:** 19.2 points per game,  
10 rebounds per game,  
2 assists per game

**TARYN RICHARD**  
**Martin County**  
**senior, guard**  
**Stats:** 16.2 points per game,  
5.2 rebounds per game,  
4.1 assists per game

**ASHLEY ROBINSON**  
**Jensen Beach junior guard**  
**Stats:** 24.2 points per game,  
2.4 assists per game,  
4.3 steals per game;  
shot 45 percent



ALEX BOERNER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Brittany Jackson of Sebastian River is the 2012 Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

# A champion's heart

## Brittany Jackson accomplished her high school goal by leading Sebastian River to a state title

By Aimee Ford Foster  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

SEBASTIAN — In the final hours of her high school basketball career, Brittany Jackson finally captured the elusive goal she had chased for four years.

She led Sebastian River to the Class 7A state championship.

After a quiet regular season, Jackson was everything the Sharks needed her to be in their tournament run, averaging 23 points, 10.7 rebounds and 3.5 steals over the final eight games. In the title game, Jackson had a key block, a key rebound and hit four straight free throws in the waning seconds to secure the win and the title. Throughout it all, she played with a ferocity that was impossible to miss — all the while quietly nursing a foot injury that kept her out of practice.

The senior has been honored several times for her accomplishments. Add one more to the list. Jackson is the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers Girls Basketball Player of the Year. She also earned the award as a sophomore.

"I'm happy to accomplish a goal that I've always wanted and

### Player of the Year

#### Brittany Jackson

**Sebastian River senior guard**

**Stats:** 14.9 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 5.8 apg, 3.8 spg

**Coach Terri Amy:** "We know what she's capable of and she knows it. We'd been asking her all year to score more and she said 'I will when the tournament comes. I will be ready.' And she was. She's an amazing athlete and talent. When the pressure is on and the competition is better, she thrives."

to live up to all the standards everyone put me up to," she said. "I feel happy and fine. I was always working on something to get better. It was always something each year that kept me from being a state champ.

"I already had the feeling. I knew how to be a state champ (in track and field), but not in basketball. It's just amazing. So many doors are opening."

Winning the state title resonates with Jackson, and not just because it was her last chance. She grew up with the game, playing whenever and wherever she could. She has long seen it as a chance at a different life, which will come to fruition after her high school graduation. Jackson has signed a national letter of intent to play

basketball at Georgia Tech next year and most likely will make the move to Atlanta this summer.

It is also a gift to her mother. "I knew this was my way out," she said. "Therefore I practiced and practiced. I love the game more than anything. I would take basketball over everything. If my friends wanted to hang out, I'd go to the court.

"It's my way out. My mom (Brenda Freeman) is a single parent and this year has been one of the toughest years with me and my sister and my mom fighting chemo. She has cancer. I'm just trying to maintain and get to college."

It is an astonishing weight for a high school senior to carry. Jackson not only endured through it

### Coach of the Year



**Terri Amy**  
**Sebastian River, 12th season**

**This season:** Guided team to its first state championship in program history. The

Sharks finished 25-3, winning their first regional championship to advance to state for the first time. The run started when the Sharks won their third straight district title.

**Quotable:** "It's been amazing. These girls make it a lot easier, my coaches make it a lot easier. It's not just me. They are a bunch of characters and they make it fun day in and day out. It is stressful sometimes, but we walked into the tournament like we had nothing to lose."

all, though, she has prevailed.

"My mom was as happy as I was," Jackson said. "Her first words were 'You did it.' I made it. I did it."

### Honorable Mention

**ANDREA AYALA**  
Lincoln Park Academy senior forward

**CASSIDY BELL**  
Pine School junior guard

**JASMINE BROWN**  
Vero Beach sophomore guard

**DEMETRIA COLLINS**  
Treasure Coast junior guard

**LARNIQUE COLLINS**  
Fort Pierce Central senior center/forward

**AMI EDWARDS**  
Okeechobee junior forward

**MEREDITH FLYNN**  
St. Lucie West Centennial junior forward

**ALEXIS JEAN**  
Lincoln Park Academy freshman forward

**NENE JOHNSON**  
Martin County sophomore guard

**MERKEYIA JONES**  
Sebastian River senior guard

**RONEISHA JORDAN**  
Fort Pierce Central junior guard/forward

**MARTIKA McDANIEL**  
Fort Pierce Central senior guard

**TYIESHA McLENDON**  
St. Edward's senior guard

**MICAEALA MARTINELLI**  
Sebastian River sophomore forward/guard

**MARRIAH NUNNALLY**  
Treasure Coast junior wing

**YASMIN QUEEN**  
Martin County freshman guard

**MAIAH SHEPHARD**  
Sebastian River junior guard

**MARGIE SMITH**  
Vero Beach junior guard

**CHANICE WHITTON**  
South Fork junior post

**MIRANDA WILT**  
St. Lucie West Centennial senior forward

**KAYLA WOULARD**  
Vero Beach freshman guard

### The Team

The 2012 Girls Basketball All-Area team was compiled by Aimee Ford Foster.

TCPALM  
**PREPZONE**

See previous all-area teams on prepzone.TCPalm.com

### All-Area Schedule

THURSDAY  
Girls  
soccer

FRIDAY  
Boys  
soccer

SATURDAY  
Wrestling

SUNDAY  
Girls  
basketball

MONDAY  
Boys  
basketball

WEDNESDAY  
Girls  
weightlifting

# STAY ON THE BALL.



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